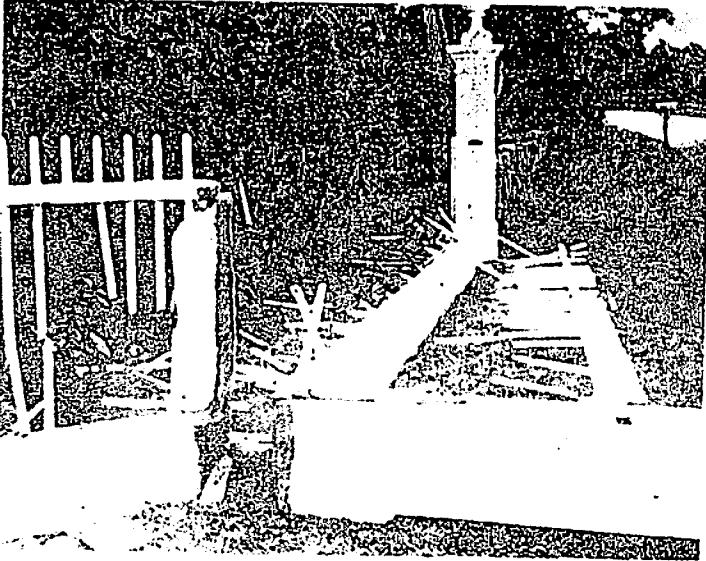


Thursday, September 16, 1965



A. NEW HIGH IN VANDALISM

Vandalism is rampant in Duxbury. For details read the Police News. For a close-up see the photo above, clear-cut evidence of the workings of a sick mind.

Antisocial behavior is comprehensible when put in proper context. The thief breaks in and enters, but he has a motive. He wants to steal valuables. Harder to understand are the motives of the person or persons with a warped mind who methodically destroys, spindle by spindle, a wall fencing in the King Caesar House.

Was it because this historical edifice is a symptom of Duxbury's heritage?

Was this the sick effort of an adult with an axe to grind, and perhaps with an axe to use?

We are not allowed to publish names of juveniles (persons 16 or under). That is the state law of Massachusetts. We can't publish the names of juveniles.

We can publish the names of persons over the age of 16 after they are arraigned in court. If and when we learn the identity of the depraved person or persons who so willfully and maliciously and destructively tried to make part of a historical shrine into a shambles, and that person or persons are arraigned in court, we will publish the names.

The King Caesar House fence was damaged three times before, but never to such an extent. Those spindles can be replaced, and the urns can be returned to the posts, but the replacements can scarcely be classified as ancient landmarks.

Meanwhile, what remedial measures can be taken to stamp out the vandalism and the felonies committed in Duxbury? Perhaps the taxpayers have a choice. They should either stop grumbling about the vandalism and crime or add officers to our police force. A comparative study of manpower could be made with towns with the same population, remembering always that Duxbury is large in area. Duxbury has about the same population as Cohasset, but it is five

times greater in area (approximately 30 square miles as compared to six). If so, which town should have more police protection.

Some of the punks and drunken slow-wits in the corps of ghoulish marauders have short-wave radios. If they discover that the police are at one end of the town, they may operate in another. One of these nights some of them will be caught. If we had sufficient cruisers available last Saturday night, those fence-busters might have been caught. How?

When the call came in after midnight, one cruiser was at the scene in a matter of minutes. If another had been available, it would have sealed off the bottleneck near the flagpole and have stopped and checked any suspicious looking cars. It is well to remember that beaches lure hoodlums. The Powder Point section is a good place to trap them, unless they are strong swimmers.

We suggest that some public-spirited citizens form a quiet little committee to investigate our possible police needs in comparison with the needs of other South Shore towns.

What can you do as a private citizen? For one thing, be on the alert enough when your suspicions are aroused to report what you see. If everyone swept in front of his house, the whole town would be clean.

And if everyone was on the look-out for vandalism, perhaps there might be less of it.